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## **MINUTES of the HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

☐ Regular Board Meeting    ☐ Special Board Meeting    ☒ Committee Meeting

Type of Committee: Developmental Disabilities Committee

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 3:00 PM

Person Taking Minutes: Melissa Gauthier

*\*Minutes reflect the recorder's notations of actions taken and are subject to approval of the appropriate committee and/or Board.*

Members Present: Ted Cushing (via Teams), Mike Roach (via Teams 3:12 PM), Ron Skallerud, Ken Storms, Toni Van Doren (via Teams)

Members Excused: Tina Anderson, Holly Tomlanovich

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Hugo Vargas

Others Present:

### **1. MEETING CONVENED**

The meeting convened at 3:02 P.M. by Chair Storms and it was noted that a quorum was present, and the posting of the agenda and media notification had taken place in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Cushing, second by Skallerud to:

**APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF ITEMS AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION.**

All ayes, motion carried.

### **3. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Skallerud, second by Van Doren to:

**APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.**

HOPE. SUPPORT. CONNECTION.

All ayes, motion carried.

**4. BIRTH TO 3 PROGRAM UPDATE**

Vargas reported that there are currently 65 clients enrolled in the Birth to 3 Program: 12 from Forest County, 37 from Oneida County, and 16 from Vilas County. There are 13 new referrals received in October: 2 from Forest County, 5 from Oneida County, and 6 from Vilas County.

Vargas reported that there has been notable improvement in the referral process, particularly from healthcare providers. The increase highlights the effectiveness of the recent outreach efforts to strengthen relationships with healthcare providers. The Birth to 3 team has also been invited to participate in the bi-monthly meetings of the Lakeland Area Autism Group which focuses on addressing the rising prevalence of autism among young children.

The Birth to 3 team has implemented the Functional Vision Screening Tool in the comprehensive assessment process. The Functional Vision Screening Tool was developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to evaluate visual development in children aged 0 to 3 and aligns with the program's goals.

**5. CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE**

Vargas reported that there are currently 228 children enrolled in the program: 22 from Forest County, 143 from Oneida County, 53 from Vilas County, and 9 from other counties. There were 12 referrals received in October: 9 from Oneida County and 3 from Vilas County.

HSC's CLTS program is currently fully staffed and all clients deemed eligible for services have been removed from the waitlist and assigned to a Support and Service Coordinator.

Vargas attended the most recent Consumer Advisory Committee meeting hosted by Pat Cork. Valuable feedback was received from consumers regarding service delivery and highlighted the unique challenges of serving rural communities. Internal policies will be updated to address concerns that have been identified.

Connections have been made with three new providers specializing in supporting families of individuals with disabilities.

WI Department of Health Services (DHS) announced starting in January contracted providers will only need to be contracted through the state to provide services and not have to go through the contracting process with the agency as well. This update will streamline the process of finding contracted providers and streamline the process for providers.

**6. TRANSITION UPDATE**

Vargas reported that the CLTS and Birth to 3 programs will experience minimal disruptions during the transition. Changes to the programs are administrative and should not disrupt service delivery.

**7. CLOSE OUT MEETING FOR THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE AND THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee members thanked Vargas and HSC employees for their hard work and dedication to the clients and for providing thorough and comprehensive information to the Committee. Vargas thanked the Committee members for being a part of The Human Service Center Board. Minutes will be approved at the November 20, 2024, Human Service Center Full Board meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Storms adjourned the Developmental Disabilities Committee meeting at 3:40 P.M.

Melissa Gauthier  
Administrative Assistant